## ABSTRACT

An improved composition and method for protecting both natural and artificial hair color from the harmful effects of ultraviolet radiation is provided. The composition includes melanin, an ultraviolet absorber, and a cationic surfactant. The composition may also include other ingredients such as additional cationic surfactants, hair conditioning agents, dispersing agents, rheology modifiers, emulsifiers, antioxidants, film formers, and water. A method of protecting hair color from ultraviolet radiation includes applying the composition to natural or artificial hair.